

not just high-priced condos. There is a severe housing shortage in the region, and rental prices have increased by 39 percent and more since the storm. Home sale prices in suburban parishes have also skyrocketed. Average working people can't move home because they can't find affordable housing.

One of the most important features of this bill is the extension of the Gulf Opportunity Zone low-income housing tax credit until the end of 2010. Louisiana is offering these tax credits to developers who build affordable housing in the hurricane-affected communities, but current law requires that developers have the project built and occupied by the end of 2008.

In the post-storm world of south Louisiana, this is almost impossible. The Housing Financing Agency in New Orleans estimates that 65 percent of the affordable housing units under development, about 11,050 units, won't make the deadline to be available for rent by the deadline at the end of 2008. Add all the extenuating circumstances of post-Katrina Louisiana, mold remediation for flood-damaged rehabilitation projects, elevation of property, getting permits, going through the zoning requirements, all the things that take time, including needing water, sewer, and gas lines, there is no way that developers can finish.

Finally, as a fiscal conservative and a Blue Dog, I want to point out that this bill follows House PAYGO rules and will not increase the deficit. In fact, the offsets that are contained in the bill will cause an increase in revenue.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia, and I thank the bipartisan effort of the committee.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I fully support H.R. 1562, the Katrina Housing Relief Act of 2007. Adequate and affordable housing is a basic human right, and today Congress is stepping in again to give our citizens of the gulf coast some help. This bill will provide tax incentives to ensure that adequate and affordable housing is available in the gulf coast region.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" for this bill.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. I rise today in support of the amended version of H.R. 1562. During the Committee debate on this bill I raised concerns about the revenue offset used to pay for this legislation. The original bill would have permitted the IRS to seize the assets of a taxpayer prior to a hearing. The provision was scored as raising \$240 million. The reason for the change was that there are some taxpayers who are serial abusers of the payroll tax withholding mechanism who needed to be shut down to prevent a drain on revenues.

The problem is that we cannot begin to close the tax gap at the expense of basic civil liberties. We would have a taxpayer revolt at such heavy-handed tactics. Congress put in place many taxpayer protections against

heavy-handed IRS tactics and I think we need to be very careful as we contemplate rolling back any of them in the name of closing the "tax gap."

The amended bill before us now would go after the serial abusers of the payroll tax system. It would require that if someone has already been through the hearing process in the last two years, then they don't get to keep scamming the tax system. They cannot hide behind the protections meant for taxpayers who have simply made a mistake in filing payroll taxes for their employees.

The protection of having a hearing prior to IRS seizure of assets is important in many circumstances. One of the leading reasons for this protection is innocent spouse relief. If a husband messes up his company's payroll taxes in one quarter, the Committee approved bill and the version already approved by the other body, would have allowed the IRS to seize his wife's assets and give her no ability to claim innocent spouse relief until roughly eight months after the seizure. I don't think this is good policy and I think it is a lousy way to close the "tax gap."

I commend Chairman RANGEL and Ranking Member MCCRERY for working to be sure that these situations are addressed by the amendment we have worked out. I hope that whenever the House and Senate put this revenue raiser into a final agreement later this year, that the House version prevails.

Again, I support the version of this legislation that we are debating on the House floor today and I want to personally thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for working so hard to address these concerns.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1562, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2000

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRALEY of Iowa). Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mr. HINCHEY, New York
Mr. HILL, Indiana
Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, California
Mr. CUMMINGS, Maryland
Mr. DOGGETT, Texas

NATIONAL BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 1132) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1132

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM.

Title XV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300k et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1501(d)—

(A) in the heading, by striking "2000" and inserting "2020"; and

(B) by striking "by the year 2000" and inserting "by the year 2020";

(2) in section 1503, by adding at the end the following:

"(d) WAIVER OF SERVICES REQUIREMENT ON DIVISION OF FUNDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a demonstration project under which the Secretary may waive the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (4) of subsection (a) for not more than 5 States, if—

"(A) the State involved will use the waiver to leverage non-Federal funds to supplement each of the services or activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1501(a);

"(B) the application of such requirement would result in a barrier to the enrollment of qualifying women;

"(C) the State involved—

"(i) demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, the manner in which the State will use such waiver to expand the level of screening and follow-up services provided immediately prior to the date on which the waiver is granted; and

"(ii) provides assurances, satisfactory to the Secretary, that the State will, on an annual basis, demonstrate, through such documentation as the Secretary may require, that the State has used such waiver as described in clause (i);

"(D) the State involved submits to the Secretary—

"(i) assurances, satisfactory to the Secretary, that the State will maintain the average annual level of State fiscal year expenditures for the services and activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1501(a) for the period for which the waiver is granted, and for the period for which any extension of such waiver is granted, at a level that is not less than—

"(I) the level of the State fiscal year expenditures for such services and activities for the fiscal year preceding the first fiscal year for which the waiver is granted; or

"(II) at the option of the State and upon approval by the Secretary, the average level of the State expenditures for such services and activities for the 3-fiscal year period preceding the first fiscal year for which the waiver is granted; and

"(ii) a plan, satisfactory to the Secretary, for maintaining the level of activities carried out under the waiver after the expiration of the waiver and any extension of such waiver;

"(E) the Secretary finds that granting such a waiver to a State will increase the number of women in the State that receive each of the services or activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1501(a), including making available screening procedures for both breast and cervical cancers; and

"(F) the Secretary finds that granting such a waiver to a State will not adversely affect the quality of each of the services or activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1501(a).